Three waterways namely the Ganga, the Brahmaputra and the West Coast Canal have been declared as National waterways and are being developed by the Central Government by providing infrastructural facilities for shipping and navigation. Hydrographic surveys and Techno-economic studies have also been conducted on other waterways. Declaration of new waterways, as national waterways would depend on availability of funds.

(c) Techno-economic feasibility study has been conducted for development of canal system between Kakinada and Mercaunam integrated with Godavari and Krishna river system. The study has shown that the development of this waterway system is viable.

Declaration of Palakkad-Calicut Road as National Highway

2727. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to include the road from Palakkad to Calicut (via) Malappuram-Calicut Airport as National Highway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of allocation of funds for this road in this Budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) The road from Palakkad to Calicut via Malappuram which provides a link to Calicut Airport with a length of 130 Kms. has already been declared as National Highway No. 213. The expenditure on any developmental work along this National Highway will be met out of the total allocation for National Highway (Original) works in Kerala.

Declaration of New National Highways in Punjab

2728. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA :

SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal by Punjab Government to declare some State highways as National Highways is lying pending with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in taking a final decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, proposals have been received from various State Governments including Punjab to declare some State roads as new National Highways. However, there is no concrete proposal to declare these roads as new National Highways as of now due to constraint of resources.

Medical Fitness of DGBR Officer

2729. SHRI GANDHI AZAD : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1343 given in the Rajya Sabha on 14th December, 1999 and state :

(a) whether D.O.P.T. clarification was obtained by I.R.C.C. before accepting Medical Fitness Certificate of DGBR Ex-Officer after the lapse of 16-18 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor and rules under which it was accepted;

(c) the details of directions issued by Vigilance Department from time to time on transfer of corporation employees;

(d) the details of action taken on during the last three years; and

(e) the details of stagnating employees during the last five years in one Department ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Since the officer concerned was medically examined and found fit by the Central Standing Medical Board, Willingdon Hospital, New Delhi, vide their medical report dated 6th October, 1975, no need was felt for seeking any clarification from Department of Personnel & Training. The relevant record has since been received from the Director-General, Border Roads and are available with the Corporation.

(c) to (e) In absence of any project work in the Corporation there is hardly any department which can be considered sensitive. However, as per directives received from Vigilence Department in 1997, periodic action for rotational posts has to be taken. Accordingly, the incumbents to the post of Cashier/Stores in-charge have been changed from time to time.